



Montgomery County Council

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COUNTY CABLE HISTORY PROGRAM FOCUSES ON CHESTNUT LODGE

This month's edition of County Cable Montgomery's "Paths to the Present: Montgomery County Stories" explores historic Chestnut Lodge in Rockville.

Chestnut Lodge had its beginnings in 1897 as a summer resort hotel. Originally named the Woodlawn Hotel, this four-story, Empire-style brick structure boasted all the modern amenities available at the end of the 19th century. But in less than 10 years, Rockville's "resort boom" was over and the Woodlawn Hotel had to be sold. Ernest Bullard, a psychiatrist from Milwaukee, purchased the property in order to open a psychiatric sanitarium. He renamed it "Chestnut Lodge," for the 125 chestnut trees that surrounded the main building at the time.

For nearly a century, three generations of Bullards owned and operated Chestnut Lodge. Throughout the years, it expanded and grew, gaining a place of international prominence in the psychiatric community. The Lodge was closed and grounds sold in 2001.

This show looks at the history of Chestnut Lodge and features reminiscences with James Bullard, who grew up on the property, as well as interviews with Dr. Ann-Louise Silver, a former employee at Chestnut Lodge, and with Eileen McGuckian, Executive Director of Peerless Rockville.

"Paths to the Present: Montgomery County Stories" is an on-going series highlighting this county's local history and is jointly produced by the Montgomery County Council and the Montgomery County Historical Society. It can be seen on County Cable Montgomery (channel 6 on Montgomery County Cable) through April 5.

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